

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
SP-02 NSC-05 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /059 W
-----221121Z 037072 /17

R 220810Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7360

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1185

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SN, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: USDEL'S "SINCERITY" QUESTIONED

1. FINANCE MINISTER HON SUI SEN TOLD PARLIAMENT MARCH 21 HE DOUBTS SINCERITY OF U.S. DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE SIVAIR AGREEMENT. REPLYING TO MP'S QUESTION, HON SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT SINCE TALKS BEGAN IN 1974. HE POINTED TO PAN AM RIGHTS HERE AS AGAINST CAB DENIAL OF SINGAPORE AIRLINES' APPLICATION FOR CARGO ROUTE TO U.S. WEST COAST. DURING LAST ROUND OF TALKS, HON CONTINUED, USDEL "DEMANDED" THAT GOS OBTAIN RIGHTS FOR U.S. CARRIERS IN PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA. "THIS IS ABSURD," HON CONTINUED, AND RAISES DOUBTS AS TO THE SINCERITY OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION IN WANTING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH US." HOWEVER, HON COUNSELLED PATIENCE, SAYING AMERICANS, "WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE A FAIR-MINDED PEOPLE," WOULD EVENTUALLY ALLOW SIA TO CROSS THE PACIFIC. HON'S REMARKS WERE PUBLICIZED IN MARCH 22 STRAITS TIMES.

2. EMBASSY HAS PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE, ON IF-ASKED BASIS, ASSERTING OUR GOOD-FAITH NEGOTIATING EFFORTS, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WILL RESULT IN AGREEMENT AND DECLINING
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COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF TALKS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AN MFA OFFICIAL HAS, IN PAST, CHARACTERIZED SINGAPORE AIRLINES AS THE HARDLINER IN THIS MELODRAMA, WITH GOS MINISTRIES TRYING TO MODERATE SIA'S DEMANDS, IT APPEARS THAT MINISTERS ARE NOT IMMUNE TO FRUSTRATION OVER LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE TALKS. AMBASSADOR PROPOSES TO SEND HON

A TEMPERATELY WORDED LETTER (A) REFERRING TO THE EXTENDED SERIES OF TALKS BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED STATES ON CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS, (B) NOTING WITH SOME SURPRISE THAT DESPITE OUR PERSISTENCE IN THESE TALKS, DOUBTS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED CONCERNING THE SINCERITY OF US DELEGATION, (C) RECOGNIZING THAT THE ISSUES ARE THORNY AND DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE, BUT ASSERTING CONFIDENCE THAT WITH CONTINUED EFFORT A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED, AND (D) CONCLUDING THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WILL STAND A MUCH GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCESS IF EACH PARTY TO THE TALKS ENTERS THEM WITH FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE SINCERITY OF THE OTHER PARTY. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AVIATION AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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